

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 04562 132052Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 MCT-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6109
INFO USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
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E.O. 11652 N/A
TAGS SHUM, PINS, AR
SUBJECT DISAPPEARANCE OF EDITOR JULIAN J. DELGADO

REF: USICA MEDIA REACT JUNE 14 (BUENOS AIRES 4524)

1. ADCM AND AIO MET WITH DIRECTORS OF EL CRONISTA
COMERCIAL AND MERCADO AT THEIR REQUEST REGARDING
THE DISAPPEARANCE OF EDITOR DIRECTOR JULIAN J DELGADO
REPORTED REFTEL.

2. DIRECTORS ALBERTO BORRINI AND MARIO SEKIGUCHI
TOLD EMB OFFICERS IN CONFIDENCE THEY WANTED URGENTLY
TO AVOID ANY POSSIBLE MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE
CIRCUMSTANCES OF DELGADO'S DISAPPEARANCE. THEY SAID
THAT DELGADO HAD SUFFERED A SEVERE NERVOUS BREAKDOWN
ABOUT SIX MONTHS AGO DUE TO OVERWORK AND HAD SUBSEQUENTLY
BEEN UNDER MEDICAL TREATMENT. THEY SAID THAT THEY
BELIEVED HIS DISAPPEARANCE WAS DUE TO HIS ILLNESS AND
THAT THEY HAD ABSOLUTELY NO EVIDENCE THAT HE HAD BEEN
THE VICTIM OF KIDNAPPING BY EITHER RIGHT OR LEFT WING
GROUPS.

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3. BORRINI SAID THAT DELGADO WAS LAST SEEN BY HIS DOCTOR
ON JUNE 4 AND THAT MRS. DELGADO NOTIFIED THE PAPER WHEN
HE FAILED TO RETURN HOME SOME HOURS LATER. THE PAPER
IMMEDIATELY LAUNCHED ITS OWN INVESTIGATION WITHOUT
RESULTS. THEY THEN NOTIFIED INTERIOR MINISTER HARGUINDEGUY
WHO BEGAN A "DISCREET INVESTIGATION" ALSO WITH NO RESULTS.

4. THE PAPER AND HARGUINDEGUY THEN AGREED TO MAKE THE STORY OF THE DISAPPEARANCE PUBLIC SO THE POLICE COULD BEGIN A NATIONWIDE SEARCH FOR THE MISSING MAN. SEKIGUCHI CRITICIZED THE BUENOS AIRES HERALD FOR ITS "HURRIED CONCLUSION" THAT LED THAT NEWSPAPER TO A "DISTORTION OF REALITY" AND TO THE "FALSE ASSUMPTION" THAT DELGADO HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED BY GOVERNMENT OR MONTONERO FORCES.

5. BOTH BORRINI AND SEKIGUCHI SAID THE GOA HAD BEEN FULLY COOPERATIVE IN THE EFFORT TO FIND THE MISSING EDITOR. THEY SAID NEITHER THEY NOR THE FAMILY HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY ANY OUTSIDER SINCE DELGADO DISAPPEARED.

6. COMMENT: IT WAS APPARENT THAT THE EL CRONSITA COMERCIAL DIRECTORS MADE AN UNUSUAL EFFORT TO MEK SURE THE EMBASSY WAS APPRISED OF WHAT THEY CONSIDERED TO BE THE TRUE FACTS OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE. IT IS LIKELY THEY HAD CONSULTED WITH HIGH GOA OFFICIALS WHO AGREED--OR EVEN URGED--THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY SHOULD BE GIVEN THE FULL BACKGROUND OF DELGADO'S DISAPPEARANCE, TO "AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS." THE REPORTING OFFICER WERE IMPRESSED BY THE SINCERITY OF BORRINI AND SEKIGUCHI AND THEIR CONCERN FOR DELGADO, HIS WELFARE AND THE FEELINGS OF HIS FAMILY.

CASTRO

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